

Patrick Conant
P.O. Box 1172
Volcano, HI 96785

April 12, 2008

Ms. Laura H. Thielen, Chair
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Proposed Designation of a portion of TMK 7-2-01 into the Natural Area Reserve System

Dear Chairperson, Thielen and Board Members,

I support the designation of this portion of TMK 7-2-01 as a NAR for several reasons. I am quite familiar with the area since I hiked the Poamoho Trail from the time I was a teenager. I can recall what a thrill it was to see iwi there on two occasions. The forest at Poamoho is still some of the best on Oahu and definitely needs protection from the threats of alien plants and animals. Other endangered birds that may still occur there include the elepaio, the alauahio and the pueo. Twenty five rare native Hawaiian plants still occur there and 15 of these are endangered. Addition of this parcel to the NARS would effectively help protect an even larger area since it lies between two parcels already managed for protection of native Hawaiian natural resources.

I have read the Draft Nomination of the proposed NAR, and I find the text on page 11, under the heading "Long Term Ecological Viability" portrays a potentially depressing (but clearly not intentionally so) future for the parcel as a new NAR. What is not mentioned (since it is not necessarily appropriate there) are some of the more recent encouraging developments regarding NARS funding. Due to an excellent NARS staff that knows how to attract "outside funds" (particularly federal), as well as the infusion of dedicated funds from the State conveyance tax, I am optimistic that the proposed Poamoho NAR can be effectively managed well above the minimal level of protection it now receives as a portion of the Forest Reserve. The proximity of the parcel to Honolulu, and the Waimano Home DOFAW office will make it a relatively accessible area for staff to work in and mitigate the various alien species threats. Any fencing efforts to exclude feral pigs from portions of or all of the parcel are always better than none.

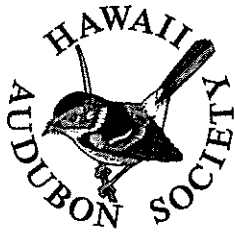
I no longer live on Oahu, but I lived in the back of Manoa Valley for 40 years, across the street from the Forest Reserve. In the last 20 or so years, disturbance of the soil and herbs by feral pigs has increased dramatically, as has been reviewed in newspaper articles over the years. This phenomenon is not limited to Manoa. Numbers of pigs in forests have increased in many areas on Oahu and other islands as well. We cannot assume that the seemingly low numbers of pigs (based on hunter catch reports) at Poamoho will remain static. Fencing is needed to prevent the damage before it is too widespread. I suspect that once Poamoho becomes a NAR, incremental fencing by NARS will begin, at the minimum ,to protect small areas of rare plant habitat. If a NAR is not created there, there remains only opportunities lost to feral pigs and weeds. Native forest badly degraded by these two threats is often not cost effective to restore, so in effect we lose it forever.

It is possible some pig hunters may complain about the loss of a hunting area. Sixteen pigs harvested per year suggests the area is not that popular, or pig numbers are presently not high. There are plenty of feral pigs on Oahu, the hunters just need access. Poamoho is too valuable as a native forest to allow sustained yield of feral pigs. Hunters may need better access in lower elevation alien-dominated forest, where control by hunting may benefit agriculture and home owners that experience damage.

In closing, I would like to add that the Proposed NAR is an integral part of the Koolau Mountain watershed, and protection of that watershed is the reason why the Ewa Forest Reserve was designated in 1906. If you have ever hiked through a forested Oahu watershed that resembles a giant pig wallow (I have) it is amazing that we can still drink the water that comes from there. A Natural Area Reserve designation is the highest form of natural resource protection that can be given to State land and one of the best ways to (indirectly) protect portions of our vital watersheds. More importantly, it protects native Hawaiian plants, animals and habitats that may be lost forever if we take "no action".

Aloha,

Patrick Conant



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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www.hawaii-audubon.com

April 14, 2008

Memo:

To: Ms. Emma Yuen

From: Ron Walker *RW*

Subject: Testimony; proposed Poamoho NAR

Enclosed is the final version of the testimony from the Hawaii Audubon Society. I'll present it at the meeting of the Natural Area Reserve Commission on April 30.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Testimony- Proposed Poamoho Natural Area Reserve **4/14/2008**

Betsy Gagne, NARS Commission Executive Secretary
State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Natural Area Reserves System Commission
1151 Punchbowl St. Rm. 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

I'm Ron Walker, currently Vice President of the Hawaii Audubon Society. My familiarity with the Natural Area Reserves System in general and the Poamoho area in particular arises from my career with the Department of Land and Natural Resources until my retirement in 1994.

The Hawaii Audubon Society supports the proposal to separate out a portion of the Ewa Forest Reserve and Public Hunting Area and declare it a Natural Area Reserve (NAR). The site is contiguous with the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge on the South and The Kamehameha Schools lands on the North. If the nomination for inclusion of the adjacent land in the Kaluanui Stream drainage on the Windward side is approved, this would create an even larger portion of the Ko'olaus under protective status for native plants and wildlife.

We believe that merely setting aside an area under more restrictive provisions of the Natural Area Reserves system does not assure restoration and perpetuation of important plant and animal habitat, but that active stewardship is necessary over the long term. The remoteness of the area, difficulty of access, the rugged terrain and the limitations of program funding means that management and enforcement will be difficult. It is urged that additional resources in staff and funds be sought.

We note that the public hunting area will be reduced in size to accommodate the new NAR. The proposal indicates that public hunting will be allowed, although public access is presently restricted. Feral pig activity is a major problem for plant and animal life, as well as contributing to erosion and damage to the watershed. We urge that access be sought in order to facilitate public hunting which can play an important role in reducing feral ungulate populations.

The proposal points out that invasive plant species are and will continue to be a major concern for management within the proposed Poamoho NAR. We agree that the highest priority should be removing incipient new invasives with second priority being controlling non-native plants along trails and at helicopter landing sites. More aggressive, labor intensive removal of invasive plants will be dependent on increased staff and funding.

To the extent possible, we recommend that public access be provided for regularly scheduled hikes, service projects or research.

We commend your program staff for an extremely well documented proposal. Thank you for including the Hawaii Audubon Society on your "Interested Party" list.

To: Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife - Natural Areas Reserves Program
Randall Kennedy, Program Manager

From: Oahu Na Ala Hele Trail and Access Advisory Council

Subject: Proposed NAR Designation of a Portion of the Ewa Forest Reserve and Public Hunting Area, inclusive of the Poamoho, Koolau Summit, and Schofield/Waikane Trails.

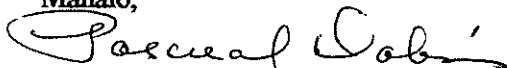
The Oahu Na Ala Hele Trails and Access Advisory Council (AC) has a vested interest in the Ewa Forest Reserve and the long term sustainability for both management and public access to the three trails listed above that constitute the boundary of the proposed new NAR.

The 1990 Oahu NAH AC members identified a series of trails constructed in the 1930's in the Koolau Mountains as Priority Trails for the BLNR approved 1991 NAH Program Plan, to direct new program efforts (See attached maps) The anticipated funding for program implementation never materialized. However, over the years ONAH staff has, with support from such groups as Oahu canoe clubs, Oahu Pig Hunters Association, the Boy Scouts of America, YCC and OCCC, improved several miles of the trail corridors for both the Poamoho and Schofield Waikane trails. Sensitive resources nearer the summit, and inadequate funds and staffing, slowed restoration efforts, which stopped short of the goal of restoring the three trails. Staff has since refocused efforts on quality maintenance along the restored trail sections. The lack of knowledge by the general public volunteers on plant speciation and other rare species also was a reason to cease mauka trail restoration. The closure of access to the Poamoho entrance by Dole further reduced the justification for expansion of public use through trail improvements. However, as you know, access was resolved last year through an MOA with Dole for limited and regulated public vehicular access.

The Oahu AC understands that the NAR policy and rules are more restrictive than the current Forest Reserve designation on public access and camping due to the protection orientated mandate for enhanced resource protection. While the AC generally supports an increase in management capacity associated with the designation, and our assumption is that the designation would allow for that, the AC has concerns about a potential reduction in public access over time, or an inability for the NAH Program to continue future restoration efforts to enable improved public access along the trails, particularly the Summit Trail.

The Oahu NAH AC is requesting that upon NAR designation, any prospective change in the current access regime established by NAH for hiking and hunting be submitted to the Oahu AC for review and recommendations.

Mahalo,



Pascual Dabis,
Chairperson, Oahu Na Ala Hele Advisory Council

Attachment: Map of NAH Oahu Priority Trails

CC: Aaron Lowe, NAH Specialist
Curt Cottrell, NAH Program Manager

April 22, 2008

Ms. Laura H. Thielen, Chair
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ms. Thielen,

I strongly support the creation of the Poamoho Natural Area Reserve on the Island of Oahu. The Department of Land and Natural Resources has proposed this addition to the state Natural Area Reserve System on state-owned land that is currently part of the 'Ewa Forest Reserve (TMK 7-2-01). The proposed Reserve would be a valuable addition to the current NARS system for Hawaii, as it contains more than 25 rare and endangered plants, and 17 rare or endangered animals. Many of these species are found only in the Ko'olau range, and due to the highly degraded state of the native ecosystems on this island as a result of invasive plants and animals they are perilously close to extinction. The Natural Area Reserves System seeks to protect the best remaining samples of our islands unique ecosystems, and I strongly believe that the proposed Poamoho NAR will be a valuable and much needed addition to this system of protected lands in Hawaii.

Feel free to contact me with any questions that you might have.

Aloha,

Creighton

Creighton M. Litton, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Forest Ecology

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Sherman Lab 240
1910 East-West Rd.

Andrea I. Jepson
1111 Ko'oho'o Place
Kailua, HI 96734
808-263-8202

April 22, 2008

Dear Ms. Thielen,

I am pleased to see that the most important land protection designation in Hawai'i, one that has not been utilized since 1990 is being proposed for Poamoho. I fully support this designation established by the state legislature and Governor Burns to protect native species, ecosystems, and geologic sites in perpetuity.

Our Ko'olau range is a treasure of rare animals and plants many of which are endangered as a result of invasive plants and animals. Naming Poamoho a Natural Area Reserves System should put it in a priority position of protection and assistance which will help to maintain and recover this threatened ecosystem.

Mahalo for your consideration of my letter.

Sincerely,

Andrea I. Jepson

Dear Ms Laura H. Thielen, Chair, Board of DLNR,

Aloha.

I am writing as a concerned citizen in support of the proposed Poamoho NAR. I have read the proposal and supporting documentation supplied by your department. I fully agree with the statements made in the proposal to include Poamoho in the NAR system. With truly Hawaiian places at constant risk of declining and disappearing, we need more protections; not less. Placing Poamoho within the protective blanket of a NAR, will be an important first step.

I have been an amateur naturalist on Oahu since the 1960's. My mentor in appreciating the wonders of our endemic and indigenous flora and fauna was the late Commander William Christensen. His son, Carl, became the head malacologist at Bishop Museum, studying our endemic snail fauna. I eventually became friends with the late Dr. Yoshio Kondo, one of the legendary figures in Hawaiian malacology, specializing in terrestrial mollusca.

Specific to Poamoho, I have been hiking in the area since the 1960's and I have witnessed wonderful examples of our indigenous and endemic plants and animals that inhabit the proposed NAR. I have seen the iiwi and I have seen many of the land snails. Unfortunately, I have also witnessed the declines and degradation that have occurred over the years. I remember the countless *Auriculella pulchra*, an arboreal snail species so common that it looked like someone threw rice on the bushes after a wedding. In the late 1970's this species disappeared. I remember many of the listed endangered tree snails of the genus, *Achatinella*, being much lower on the trail and in easily seen numbers. Today, they continue to decline and their populations have retreated to depauperate numbers. I have many such tales to relate.

The factors that have caused these declines and disappearances are still at work and are accelerating.

Please consider the inclusion of Poamoho into the NARS, so that future generations can witness a small part of Oahu I have been privileged to see.

Respectfully submitted,

Leland Miyano
PO Box 4584
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
April 22, 2008

April 25, 2008

Ms. Laura H. Thielen, Chair
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Ms. Thielen:

I am writing to encourage the DLNR to create the Poamoho Natural Area Reserve on state-owned land, which is currently part of the uppermost portion of the 'Ewa Forest Reserve (TMK 7-2-01), above the 1,800-foot elevation between the Poamoho and Schofield-Waikane trails, bounded by the summit of the Ko'olau Mountains.

The proposed Poamoho Natural Area Reserve contains more than twenty-five rare or endangered plants and seventeen rare or endangered animals. Many of these are only found in the Ko'olau range and are perilously close to extinction as a result of invasive plants and animals. The biological wealth of Hawai'i is being depleted rapidly. Please protect the best remaining samples of our unique ecosystems! Creating the Poamoho Natural Area Reserve would be a significant step in that direction.

Having grown up in 'Ewa Beach in the 1950s and 1960s (we never used the 'okina, in those days), I have fond memories of the uncrowded, wide-open spaces of the central plain. After moving to Volcano, on Hawai'i Island in 1983, to get away from the increasing crowding of Honolulu (thereby adding to this island's population by one), I have only returned to O'ahu once in about twenty years, and then only for half a day; I frankly do not want to see what has been done to O'ahu Nani. Since those whose business it is to control growth on its 567 square miles are not doing so but rather are accommodating more and more growth, it is very encouraging to hear that at least one pristine area of the island may be preserved for future generations to appreciate and continue supporting.

Mahalo for kindly reading my testimony.

Stephanie K. Grout
P.O. Box 159
Volcano, HI 96785-0159
1-808-967-7662
Alanawau@alohayes.net



April 28, 2008

Laura H. Thielen
Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 130
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Testimony in Favor of the Proposed Poamoho Natural Area Reserve
For the NARS Commission Hearing on April 30, 2008

Dear Ms. Thielen:

The Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club (HTMC) wishes to voice its support for the proposed Poamoho Natural Area Reserve (NAR). As a club, our objectives include the preservation and conservation of Hawaii's forests and wild lands. We accomplish this by promoting among our members and others an interest in and a stewardship for the fragile environment over which we conduct our main activity, hiking. We believe we are partners with the Department of Land and Natural Resources in preserving the best of what Hawaii has to offer, while maintaining access to some of the most beautiful places on earth.

Please be assured that our members are respectful of the land and see themselves as caretakers of the environment. Many of our members are avid students of native flora and fauna and fully understand the importance of protecting those populations. We also provide many trail clearing manhours every week to keep Oahu trails open for hikers, researchers, emergency personnel, and those who work to keep invasive species from our forests. Our hikes through the NARs are members-only hikes and our actions are cautious and deliberate, avoiding departure from the marked trail.

HTMC holds a high regard for the historic trails that border three sides of the proposed NAR and we strongly support that they remain Priority Trails as listed in the 1991 Na Ala Hele plan. Two of these trails that we hike each year, Poamoho and Schofield-Waikane form the north and south boundaries of the proposed NAR. Neither passes through the NAR, but both give researchers and scientists as well as hikers access without actually passing through or disturbing the interior of the NAR. HTMC supports the current access policy and would like to see it continued. We ask that we be included in any present and future reviews regarding NAR access.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Mendes, President
Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club

Phyllis Ha
c/o 228 Aikahi Loop
Kailua, HI 96734

April 30, 2008

Ms. Laura H. Thielen, Chair
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

OR via e-mail: dlnr@hawaii.gov

Dear Ms. Thielen:

I urge you, as Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, to use your leadership position to support designation of the Poamoho parcel, Oahu, as a Natural Area Reserve. I am a long-time resident of Oahu and writing on behalf of myself, I strongly support designation of the Poamoho parcel as a Natural Area Reserve (NAR). The natural resource and conservation values of the Poamoho parcel have all of the qualities that a NAR should have.

In my previous job, I worked for over 15 years with the Federal government studying, evaluating, and protecting high quality conservation areas. In that job, I saw many outstanding examples of lands throughout Hawaii and the Pacific that are in protected status, or being considered for protection by various State, Federal, and private entities. In my estimation, Poamoho is extremely deserving of protection as a NARS.

I had the privilege of working in the Koolau mountains while planning for the then-proposed Oahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge. Poamoho was part of the study area and I was able to visit the area on several occasions. A Refuge was eventually established on land at Waipio (also known as "Kipapa") in the 1990's. The Dept. of Interior purchased approximately 4,900 acres in fee title to be managed for conservation values in perpetuity. For more detail on the background on establishing the Refuge, resources of the Koolau mountains including Waipio and Poamoho, and proposed Refuge management, the final environmental assessment and conceptual management plan are available for reference.

Although Poamoho was studied for inclusion in the Refuge, it is my understanding that the Refuge was not established in place of protecting Poamoho. Both areas have unique qualities and Poamoho contains significant natural resources. The Poamoho parcel was not available for purchase by the Federal agency as it is State land. Should Poamoho be designated as a Natural Area Reserve, it would complement the Oahu Forest National

Wildlife Refuge and would also help to ensure the significant natural resources found in the northern leeward Koolau mountains are conserved into the future.

During the site visits to Poamoho, I and my colleagues were able to learn about the various natural community areas that are in the lower, middle and upper elevations. Although you are no doubt aware of these natural resource values at Poamoho, I wanted to include an overview of the plant and animal resources of Poamoho that justify its inclusion in the State of Hawaii Natural Area Reserve System.

Thanks largely to past and continuing management by the State and the military (as well as associated conservation, education, and research entities), Poamoho hosts some of the most outstanding examples of native Oahu native plant communities. These include remnant stands of native dryland forest, large areas of mesic koa forest; koa and ohia; and ohia-wet forest. Near the summit, stunted native wet cloud-forest and bog communities occur. These natural community types support an array of other trees, shrubs, ferns, and other native plants. These plant communities, in turn, support a diversity of native fauna that includes native arthropods, land snails, and birds. Several critically endangered Oahu tree snail species of the genus, *Achatinella*, occur there. The forests of Poamoho also support a variety of native Hawaiian birds including the endangered Oahu Elepaio, and two Hawaiian honeycreepers: the Oahu Amakihi and the Apapane. The native Hawaiian Owl (Pueo) was seen in the Koolau Mountains at nearby Waipio and could reside in Poamoho. It is very likely the native forests support endangered Hawaiian bats that still reside in the Koolau mountains. Although it is considered extinct by many, if the endangered Oahu Creeper still survives, it would occur in the forests of Poamoho. Poamoho could also serve as a release site in the future for native Iiwi, if it were deemed appropriate to release them into their former range.

Poamoho is one of the jewels of the State forest areas. A significant portion of Oahu's native forests are gone. This native forest area is deserving of being included in this extremely select group of lands whose natural values are recognized and protected in perpetuity. Active management is needed to ensure control of invasive weeds, and control of nonnative predators such as rats, mongoose, and to minimize impacts of feral pigs.

I support the NARS be established at as low an elevation as possible to allow for conservation and restoration of native dry and native mesic forests and include land up through the Koolau Summit.

With the NARS designation, I would like the board members to see to it that members of the public would be able to visit the area, within limits of permitted use and use levels that would ensure the use is consistent with the purpose of the conservation purpose of the NARS. This could be accomplished by setting acceptable limits of use, and offering opportunities to see the area based on lottery, if demand were to exceed openings. Public

Ms. Thielen
Page 3

use will allow visitors to learn about, see, enjoy and increase their appreciation for the native resources of the Koolau mountains. Educational programs, including guided hikes, participation in research and conservation work in the field, would have positive direct impacts on Poamoho and would help ensure protection and restoration of the larger ecosystem of which it is a part. NAR access permits would help ensure that visitor use continues to be carefully managed. It's important to keep public access limited in order to prevent over use of this fragile area. At the same time, opportunities to see the area and participate in restoration are essential to educating the public and fostering support for conservation programs on Oahu and in Hawaii. It should be kept in mind that the Oahu Forest Refuge and other areas will also have the capability to support public visitation and education in the future, so Poamoho would not be the only place that would accommodate public access to the Koolau mountains.

Partnerships with the Bishop Museum, schools and universities would help to provide personnel to help with conservation work.

Designation of a NAR at Poamoho would not only recognize and protect this significant area, it would ensure the forest and the native wildlife it supports will be there for future generations to treasure and enjoy.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the proposed designation.

/original signed 4-20-08/

Phyllis Ha

Aloha Emma,

I very much support the establishment of a new area of Poamoho NAR. There are several rare and endangered species, as well as a good mixture of more common natives and native habitat. It is important to preserve these remaining areas, so much of Oahu's native habitat has already been destroyed.

As a botanist and one concerned with the future of native species it is very important to have sites in which we can study native plants in a near natural environment so that we can preserve them long term. At UHM Botany we have a number of students interested in plant ecology, breeding systems, physiology, systematics and other fields that can directly contribute to the long-term health and welfare of our native plants. They want to work with Hawaiian plants in concert with state agencies. This new area offers increased opportunities for mutually beneficial work.

I hope this testimony is not too late-we just received the email about it.

Sincerely,
Sterling C. Keeley
Professor of Botany
UHM

Hi Emma Yuen,

I am writing to you in support of establishing the proposed Poamoho Natural Area Reserve. I am hopeful that designating the Poamoho NAR will highlight the need for more native habitat management on Oahu. too often we forget that Oahu still has important natural areas with endangered species needing protection from alien invasive plants and animals.

Respectfully,
Mashuri Waite
Graduate Student
Botany Department
University of Hawaii at Manoa



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

President

Julie Leialoha

Vice-President

Nelson Ho

Secretary/Treasurer

Kim Ramos

Directors

Fred Kraus, Ph.D.

Douglas Lamerson

George Robertson

Claire Shimabukuro

Helene Takemoto

Mashuri Waite

Executive Director

Marjorie Ziegler

April 30, 2008

Laura H. Thielen, Chair
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via Email Transmittal: dlnr@hawaii.gov

Re: Support for the proposed Poamoho Natural Area Reserve
on O'ahu

Dear Ms. Thielen and Members of the Board of Land and
Natural Resources,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports the
proposed designation of Poamoho on O'ahu as a Natural
Area Reserve. It has been far too long since we last
designated a Natural Area Reserve (1991, Kanaio on Maui).

The Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) is one of the
highest levels of protection for state land supporting
native Hawaiian species, ecosystems, and geologic
features.

The primary duty of the Natural Area Reserves System
Commission is to nominate areas to be added to the NARS.
More than a dozen areas were being considered for
inclusion in the NARS around 8 years ago, and none of
them has moved forward. In the future, we hope the
Commission will move more quickly in nominating areas
that qualify for inclusion in the NARS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



Working Today for the Nature of Tomorrow!

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814

Hawai'i Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

Hi Emma,

This is an excellent proposal, very thoroughly researched, well written, and professionally done. Congratulations.

Following Table 2 at top of next page, end of paragraph, there is an incomplete sentence where you need to enter the additional acreage. Otherwise, all seems fine.

I am delighted to see this go forward. The area abuts the Kahana Ahupua`a on the lee of the Ko`olau Mt Ridge, an added asset in my view. I am delighted to witness your good work that Lynn Gressitt and I started under Governor Burns in 1972.

Aloha,

Dieter Mueller-Dombois, PhD, Dr. h.c.
Emeritus Professor of Botany & Ecology
UH Manoa
Home Tel. 254-1873



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

2 May 2008

Emma Yuen
Division of Forestry and Wildlife Planner
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
P. O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

RE: Poamoho Natural Area Reserve Proposal

Dear Ms. Yuen,

I enthusiastically support the proposal to create a new Poamoho Natural Area Reserve. I have been conducting research on Hawaiian plants, mostly Hawaiian ferns for about 20 years. Some of that research has been conducted on NARs and, thus, I am familiar with the NAR system and with the plant diversity of the Hawaiian Islands.

The Poamoho NAR will be particularly significant as the only NAR in the Ko'olau Range of O'ahu. In addition to the plant diversity mentioned in the proposal, I want to call your attention to two species of the endemic fern genus *Adenophorus*. *Adenophorus haalilioanus* is only found at 600-820 m in wet forests on the islands of Kaua'i and O'ahu. *Adenophorus oahuensis* is only found at 300-550 m in wet forests on O'ahu. These endemic ferns of such limited distribution and specialized habitat are particularly significant to the Hawaiian Island flora because fern species here are generally of much wider distribution. Although about 80% of native species of flowering plants are single-island endemics, only about 6% of the ca. 160 species of native ferns and lycophytes are single-island endemics. Thus, establishment of the Poamoho NAR will be especially important for protecting critical habitat for these special fern taxa.

Thank you for considering my comments and good luck with the establishment of the Poamoho NAR.

Sincerely,

Tom A. Ranker, Professor & Chair

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 05/12/2008 11:03 AM -----

Mashuri Waite

<mashuri@hawaii.edu

>

05/09/2008 04:26 PM

To dlnc@hawaii.gov

cc Emma.Yuen@hawaii.gov

Subject Poamoho Proposed NAR

To: Laura Thielen, Chair BLNR

I am writing to you in support of establishing the proposed Poamoho Natural Area Reserve. I am hopeful that designating the Poamoho NAR will highlight the need for more native habitat management on Oahu. too often we forget that Oahu still has important natural areas with endangered species needing protection from alien invasive plants and animals.

Respectfully,
Mashuri Waite
Graduate Student
Botany Department
University of Hawaii at Manoa

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 05/12/2008 09:59 AM -----

"Bill Nelson"

<northshorebill@hawaiiintel.net>

To <dlnr@hawaii.gov>

cc

05/10/2008 06:42 AM

Subject Poamoho Natural Area

Dear Chairperson Thielen,

I am contacting you to voice opposition to the designation of the Eastern end of the Ewa Forest Reserve as a Natural Area. History has repeatedly demonstrated that once an area receives this designation, barriers to public access immediately follow. DLNR always prefaces these designations by saying that public access won't be affected but it isn't long before the barriers go up.

As a sometime hunter in the Ewa Forest Reserve and sometimes hiker of the Poamoho Trail I can assure you that the areas remoteness by it's very nature provides plenty of protection. Anyone who expends the effort required to get to the area isn't a person that DLNR needs to worry about damaging the area. There are plenty of hoops to be jumped through to even access the Ewa Forest Reserve before reaching the trailhead. And don't forget, one must have a 4-wheel drive vehicle to use the access road to the reserve. One more hoop.

I suggest that you and those who will vote on this designation go through the procedures to access the area that the general public needs to go through. And then visit the area yourself using your private vehicle (not a state supplied vehicle) to get a first hand feeling of the effort it takes to visit it. As the director, you can easily access the area but I suggest you follow the procedures that the public has to use. You will then get a good idea of the protections that the area already enjoys.

Stan Nelson
Haleiwa, HI
637-6179

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 05/12/2008 09:59 AM -----

dan mcguire

<sullivan@xnet.co.nz>

To **dlnr@hawaii.gov**

05/10/2008 10:28 AM

cc

Subject **Poamoho addition to state Reserve**

I strongly urge the DLNR to include Poamoho as part of the state Reserve system. I worked at Honolulu Botanic Gardens for eight years and was aware of the variety of native endemic and other native plant species in Poamoho. The area is invaluable from a conservation point of view. I strongly urge that the state of Hawaii encompass this area in its conservation reserve. Please inform me of the result of the current process.

I also strongly urge access for hiking clubs and qualified botanists into the area.

Can you please send me a map of the area under consideration? Thank you. Dan McGuire P.O. Box 582 , Nelson, New Zealand phone 64-3-5483458

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 05/14/2008 09:17 AM -----

Fred R Boll
<frbinc@juno.com> To dlnc@hawaii.gov
05/13/2008 05:50 PM cc
Subject Poamoho NAR

Laura H. Thielen
Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 130
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Testimony opposing Poamoho NAR

I am opposed to making Poamoho a NAR

Adding another layer of rules is not necessary. DOFAW and NAH are doing a fine job of protecting the Poamoho area.

I support the current access policy in the area commonly called Poamoho.

NAH had a very difficult time with Dole Foods getting an access agreement for the Poamoho Trail and I know NAH staff was not well pleased but felt that it was as good as it would ever get. Any attempt to revisit this process with Dole could backfire and leave us where we were a year and half ago. The access on the South is controlled by the Army and the permit process is onerous or impossible for an individual hiker. The consequence of these access policies in effect now adequately protect the area. In addition to this the three trails in the area approximately conform to the perimeter boundary of said area and do not pass through or intrude into the interior of the area being discussed. I fail to see where hikers on these trails negatively affect the proposed NAR.

The representatives giving the presentation in support of NAR tell us they will not close Poamoho access but they are not really the ones in control. The real power is the NAR Commission. This group is not notoriously friendly toward hikers.

Here are the rules regarding the NAR commission:

"There shall be a natural area reserves system commission, hereinafter

called the "commission." The commission shall consist of thirteen members

who shall be appointed in the manner and serve for the term set in section 26-34. Six of the members of the commission shall be persons possessing scientific qualifications as evidenced by an academic degree in wildlife or marine biology, botany, forestry, ecology, resource management, biogeography, zoology, or geology; one member shall be a person possessing membership in a hiking organization organized in the State; and one member shall be a person possessing membership in a hunting organization organized in the State. The chairperson of the board

of land and natural resources, the superintendent of education, the director of the office of planning, the chairperson of the board of agriculture and the president of the University of Hawaii, or their designated representatives, shall serve as ex officio voting members. The

governor shall appoint the chairperson from one of the appointed members

of the commission. The members shall receive no compensation for their services on the commission but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses while attending meetings and while in the discharge of their duties."

As you see hikers are outnumbered at least 11 to 2 and maybe 12 to 1 depending on the hunter's vote. So, given that, if a choice were to be made pro or con on access, the NAR's commission, if there was even a perception of potential "impact", they could close the area.

Fred R. Boll
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----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 05/21/2008 09:47 AM -----

Karen Luke

<nahele@yahoo.com>

To dlnr@hawaii.gov

05/16/2008 09:42 AM

cc

Subject Poamoho Natural Area Reserve

Yes, we need to actively protect this area. The pigs and strawberry guava are some of the invasive species destroying this land. Please let me know how I can help.

Aloha,

Karen Luke (formerly from Wahiawa)

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